

Jesus Said...

**“Blessed are
your eyes,
for they see;
and your ears,
for they hear.”**

(Matthew 13:16)

One time when Jesus was talking to His disciples, He told them they were special. He had been telling them about people who had heard His teachings and had seen His miracles and yet refused to believe. He said, “But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.”

You are special, too, because you are living in the most unusual time ever. Never before has there been an age like this one. The opportunities for knowledge are unlimited. There is more knowledge in the world today than ever before. But where are most of the people looking for their knowledge? Many people are looking to teachers of all kinds for learning. And as King Solomon wrote, “Of making many books there is no end” (Ecclesiastes 12:12). The Prophet Daniel possibly wrote of this time in Daniel 12:4: “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

But acquiring worldly knowledge is not the same as having *true* wisdom. Only true wisdom is based on God's Word, the Bible. In James 1:5, we read the promise, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." God has all of the treasures of wisdom and true knowledge (Colossians 2:3). But keep in mind what Jesus said: "But blessed are *your* eyes, for they see; and *your* ears, for they hear."

Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God has been revealing His plan to bring mankind, who now have a sinful nature, back into fellowship with Him. God promised Eve that a Saviour would come to restore the relationship that was broken by their sin. In the teachings of the prophets and teachers, in the thousands of years before Jesus came, more and more of God's plan for sending a Saviour was revealed. The true worshipers of God looked expectantly for this sacrifice for sin.

But there were many who spurned God's call of love that He gave through His messengers. The Prophet Isaiah wrote about the people of his time in Isaiah 6:9, 10. Jesus used this same Scripture to show His disciples that they were living in Isaiah-like times. It was a time when people would hear and refuse to understand, and see but not perceive. Jesus said, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Matthew 13:14, 15).

Jesus was telling them that the people's hearts and minds were so satisfied and unconcerned that they did not comprehend the spiritual truths that they heard. We are living in similar times of which Jesus spoke. Today, many people are unconcerned about the spiritual truths they must know and accept in order to receive eternal life. Jesus was saddened because so many people around Him were refusing to respond so He

could heal them spiritually and physically. He is saddened today, too, when His teachings are ignored. But Jesus tells His followers today, as He told the disciples, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear."

Jesus continued to tell His disciples in Matthew 13:17 "that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear; and have not heard them." Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, tells us in I Peter 1:10-12 that the prophets did not fully understand the things we know about Jesus and the plan of salvation. They had many questions about what Jesus' coming could mean for them as they searched the truths that were revealed to them. They wondered when these things would take place. It was revealed to them that the prophecies would not be fulfilled in their lifetime, but many years later.

Two of the Old Testament prophets who believed the promises about Jesus were Abraham and Isaiah. In John 8:56 Jesus said, "Your father Abraham saw my day and was glad." Abraham saw by believing what God told Him. Isaiah saw Jesus in a prophetic vision. He wrote much about Jesus in his book. These and others in the Old Testament time had only glimpses of Jesus, but they believed firmly in Him (Hebrews 11:13). At the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus chose twelve men to learn from Him. He wanted them to be with Him and see His miracles and to hear His teachings. The call to them to follow Him was something that had never happened before. They were seeing and hearing what many before them had longed to see and hear. They were special because they not only saw Him with their physical eyes, and heard His voice with their ears, but they knew Him as the Son of God also. John, one of the Apostles of Jesus, wrote years later about their being with Jesus. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have

handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (I John 1:1-4.)

As Christians, we know about God's plan of salvation through Jesus, because we have the Bible to read and the Holy Spirit dwelling within to lead us. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will lead His followers "into all truth" (John 16:3).

Yes, you are special if, like Jesus' disciples, you hear and obey His teachings. We have the Bible record of the many prophecies and teachings about Jesus. Also, we have the fulfillment of many of the prophecies Jesus made. Jesus prophesied many things in Matthew 24 that are being fulfilled in our day. Jesus tells us, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

The angels in heaven do not understand completely the plan of salvation God is offering to you. Read I Peter 1:12 and Ephesians 3:10, 11. You may not understand all of God's plan for your life, but the Christian can know all he needs to know about Jesus. Peter says, "According to His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:3, 4).

Jesus is still revealing Himself to His people. But divine revelation comes only to those who love Jesus and obey His teachings (John 14:21).

If you are a Christian, or want to be, Jesus tells you, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Jesus speaks to

mankind today by the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit cannot dwell in the person who has not yet received Jesus as the Lord of his life. Jesus wants to be the “boss” of your life and your best friend. In Revelation 3:20, He says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” You may have seen the artist’s drawing of Jesus standing at the door knocking. Is Jesus knocking at the door of your heart, asking to come in? If He is, open your heart to Him. He died a cruel death on a cross long ago to give His blood as an offering for the sins of everyone.

The life of sin, under the devil’s control, is a hard life. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). This offering Jesus made for you is a gift. But a gift, to be received and used, must be accepted. If you are not a Christian, won’t you open your heart to Jesus and accept His gift of eternal life? “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus told His disciples their eyes and ears were blessed because they were seeing and hearing things that the Old Testament people wanted to see and hear. You are special because you have the opportunity to see and hear many of the truths Jesus’ disciples saw and heard. They did not have the New Testament part of the Bible to read as you do. You have many other opportunities to see and hear God’s unfolding plan for the world and the people who have accepted Jesus into their lives.

If you feel a “pull” in your heart that you are a sinner, this is Jesus calling you. Bow your head and pray this prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner, and I want you to forgive me. I hereby accept Jesus as my personal Saviour. Help me to turn from a life of sin to a new life led by Jesus. I want the Holy Spirit to come into my life so I can see

and hear the things you want me to hear about your unfolding plan for my life. Help me to be faithful to the truths I learn and to grow to be more like Jesus. Thank you for saving my soul. In Jesus' name, Amen."

If you have any questions or if you need any Gospel help, please feel free to contact the person whose name appears below.

—Raymond P. Brunk

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